GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007
PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN HEALTH INSURANCE
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Universal Health Insurance Scheme meant for providing health insurance to the poor people at cheaper rates has not achieved the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector insurance companies for the benefit of weaker sections;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) & (b): Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) has not achieved the desired results as envisaged at the time of the launch and the main reasons for the slow progress under the Scheme, inter alia, include the following :

(i) inadequate health infrastructure in the rural areas;

(ii) difficulty in identification of BPL families;

(iii) inadequate response from the State Governments in the implementation o f UHIS.

(iv) lack of awareness and affordability of BPL families;

(v) lack of reach of insurance companies in the rural areas, and

(vi) low premium structure makes it cost prohibitive for the insurance companies to effectively canvass the scheme.

(c):No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.